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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,381	01/18/2002	Yoshifumi Takamoto	NITT.0054	2298

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Stanley P Fisher
Reed Smith Hazel & Thomas
Suite 1400
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Falls Church, VA 22042-4503

EXAMINER

FILIPCZYK, MARCIN R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 10/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/031,381

Applicant(s)

TAKAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Marc R. Filipczyk

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

This Action is responsive to Applicant's response filed August 14, 2006 wherein claims 1-11 are pending.

To expedite the process of examination Examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. amendments, 35 U.S.C. 112, objections and the like) set forth by the Examiner that Applicants provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where the best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Priority

Application 10/031,381 is a national stage entry of PCT/JP99/05357 International Filing Date: 09/29/1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Regarding claims 1-11, the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Regarding claims 1, 4 and 10, the limitation of "converting... second information of said file store location", further regarding claims 1 and 4, the limitation of "identifying an ID of said second host computer and a type of said second operating system corresponding to said ID" were not described in the specification in

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such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Examiner suggests amending the claims to more clearly claim the invention in view of the specification.

Claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11 depend from 1, 4 and 10 respectively, and are therefore rejected on the same basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1, 4 and 10, claim 1 being exemplary, the feature of “first operating system for managing first information of a file store location” is indefinite. It is not clear whether the file store location is stored on the storage system in the disk drives. Second, the feature “of which information of a file store location is said first information, from said second host computer” is indefinite. It is not clear what the information is. Last, the limitation of “converting... second information of said file store location”, is indefinite. It is not clear how the stored location information is converted to second file’s format storage location without affecting the first file’s data.

The above claimed features are not disclosed in the disclosure or the figures and are therefore indefinite.

Examiner suggests amending the claims to more clearly claim the invention in view of the specification. For example see figure 3 as only one file is shared by the system.

Claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11 depend from 1, 4 and 10 respectively, and are therefore rejected on the same basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as best as the Examiner is able to ascertain as being anticipated by Probert, Jr. et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,918), herein “Probert”.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 11, Probert discloses a storage system (fig. 2, 222 and 226) that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored location information of a file using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored location information of the file using a second format different from said first format, said storage system comprising: (fig. 2, abstract and col. 9, lines 40-45 and col. 14, lines 33-36)

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a plurality of disk drives for storing data; (fig. 2, 236) and
a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to said first host computer and
said second host computer, and an interface for connecting to said disk drives; (fig. 2, items 228
and 238, and related text)

wherein,

said disk controller comprises: (fig. 2, items 228 and 238, and related text)

a means for holding stored location information of a file, which is stored in any one of
said plurality of disk drives, in said second format; said stored location information of the file of
the second format being corresponding to the stored location information of the file in said first
format; (fig. 2, items 234 and 236, and related text)

a means for reading (mirroring) said file on the basis of the stored location information in
said second format when access request to access said file is issued from said second host
computer; (fig. 2, items 208, 222 and 226, and related text) and,

identifying an ID of a host computer and operating system (fig. 2, items 220, 224, 226,
also see 212 and 240) and converting the stored location information of said file in said first
format into stored location information in said second format (fig. 2, 230, 234 and 236) based on
a fixed length block (col. 8, lines 7-10)

*(Note 1: before files can be formatted the system must identify the other system's operating
system and software version to set-up the criteria for conversion)*

*(Note 2: every block of data may comprise different fixed length depending on the type of data
stored such as text graph and other type)*

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Probert further discloses reading said file on the basis of the stored location information in said second format (fig. 2, items 208 and 236).

Regarding claim 3, Probert discloses said second format which has been converted is stored in a cache area in said storage system (col. 13, lines 3-12 and 45-48).

Regarding claims 6-8, Probert discloses said stored location information in said first format of said file is held in any one of said plurality of disk drives or both, first and second disk drives and disk drive may be accessed (fig. 2, items 208, 234, 236 and related text).

Regarding claim 9, Probert discloses exclusive control of an access request (col. 9, lines 41-49).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments and amendment filed on August 14, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments and responses are listed below.

Applicant notes in the 8/14/06 response that the amended claims overcome paragraph 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections.

Examiner disagrees. Applicant has not corrected all the issues raised in the office action. The currently amended claims raise new issues and are rejected accordingly. Applicant is

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reminded to provide a detailed citation linked to the specification and claims to support current and previous amended subject matter that is rejected under paragraph 35 U.S.C. 112 rejections.

Applicant argues in the 8/14/06 response that Probert does not disclose “conversion of the information of a file store location”.

Examiner disagrees. First regarding Applicant’s 8/14/06 response, Examiner reminds the Applicant that every amended claim must be linked to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where the best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132) and cannot include new subject matter not supported by the original disclosure.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant’s invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., conversion of the information of a file store location) are not clearly claimed and are rejected as best as Examiner can ascertain. Note, Probert discloses conversion includes data format conversion and conversion of access semantics (see abstract, fig. 2 and rejection above). Converting files clearly includes modifying the store location of the file since the size of the file automatically is modified during the conversion.

With respect to all the pending claims 1-11, Examiner respectfully traverses Applicant’s assertion based on the discussion cited above, as such, Examiner maintains the same rejections.

Conclusion

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Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

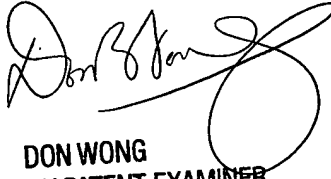
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R. Filipczyk whose telephone number is (571) 272-4019. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on 571-272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MF
October 19, 2006



DON WONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100